

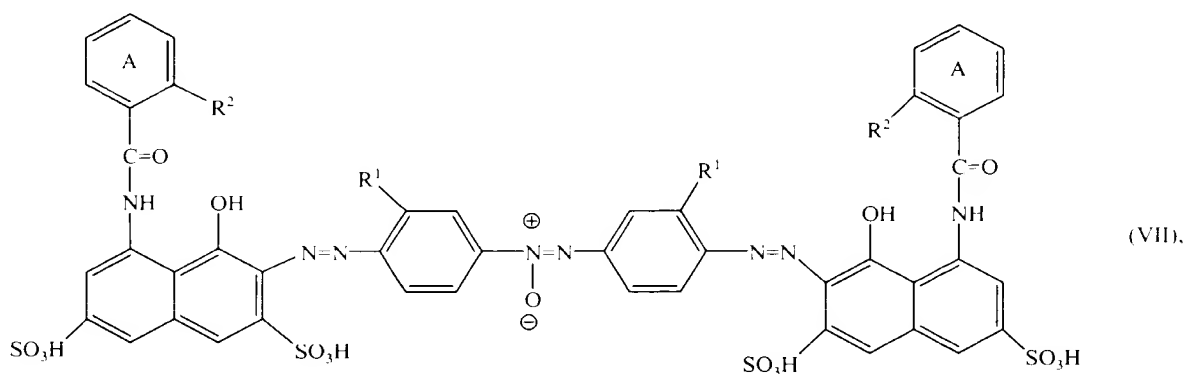
Please amend the claims as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{A} \\
 | \\
 \text{C}=\text{O} \\
 | \\
 \text{NH} \\
 | \\
 \text{N}=\text{N} \\
 | \\
 \text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{SO}_3\text{H})_n \\
 | \\
 \text{SO}_3\text{H}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{R}^1 \\
 | \\
 \text{C}_6\text{H}_4 \\
 | \\
 \text{N}^+\text{N}^- \\
 | \\
 \text{C}_6\text{H}_4 \\
 | \\
 \text{R}^1
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{A} \\
 | \\
 \text{C}=\text{O} \\
 | \\
 \text{NH} \\
 | \\
 \text{N}=\text{N} \\
 | \\
 \text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{SO}_3\text{H})_n \\
 | \\
 \text{SO}_3\text{H}
 \end{array}
 \quad (I)$$

n is 0 or 1, each

R² is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, allylamino, benzylamino and methoxycarbonylmethylamino, and the phenyl rings A may additionally be substituted by C₁-C₈-alkyl, unsubstituted or methyl- or halogen-substituted phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, halogen, carboxyl, N-benzylcarbamoyl, unsubstituted or nitro-, halogen-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy- or acetoxy-substituted phenylcarbamoyl and naphthylcarbamoyl or be benzofused.

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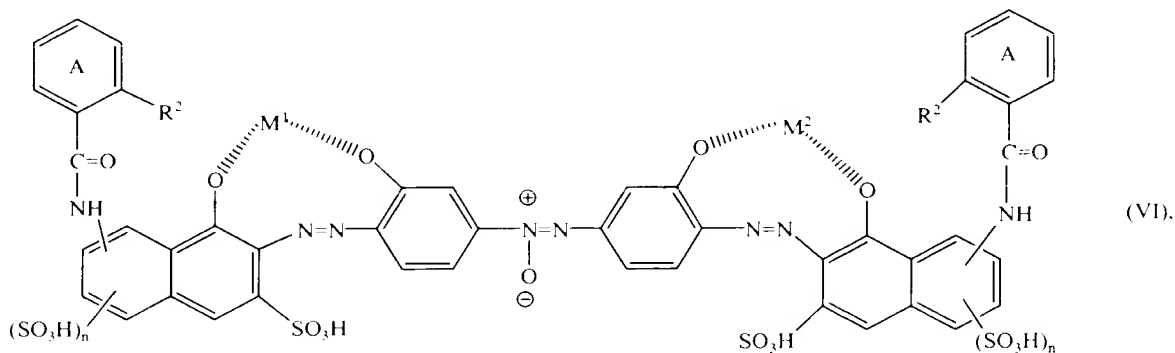
where R^1 , R^2 and A are each as defined in claim 1.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein each R^1 is methoxy.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phenyl rings A are unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl substituted.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein each R^2 is carboxyl.

Claim 6 (Original): Copper complex dyes of the general formula VI in the form of the free acid



where at least one of M^1 and M^2 is copper (II) and any which is not is hydrogen and methyl, and n , R^2 and A are each as defined in claim 1, and mixtures thereof.

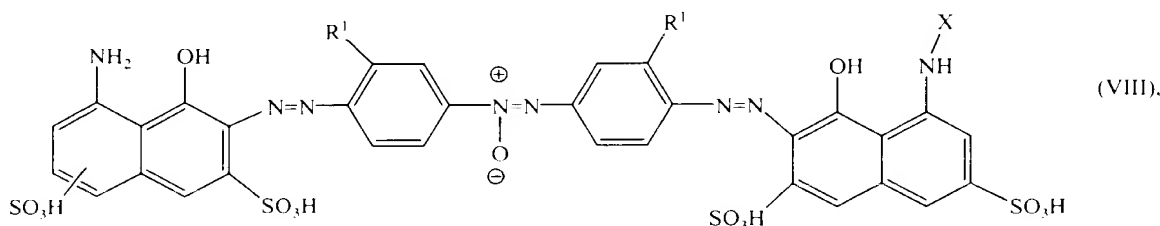
Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Copper complex dyes and their mixtures obtainable by reacting the dyes of claim 1 with at least 0.1 mol equivalent of a copper donor.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing copper complex dyes, which comprises reacting an azoxy dye of claim 1 with at least 0.1 mol equivalent of a copper donor.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method of using one or more azoxy dyes and/or their copper complexes of claim 1 for dyeing or printing natural or synthetic substrates.

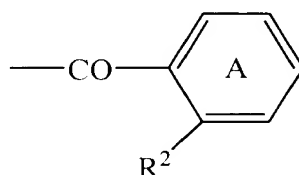
Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Natural or synthetic substrates dyed or printed with one or more azoxy dyes and/or their copper complexes of claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Azoxy dyes of the general formula VIII in the form of the free acid



where

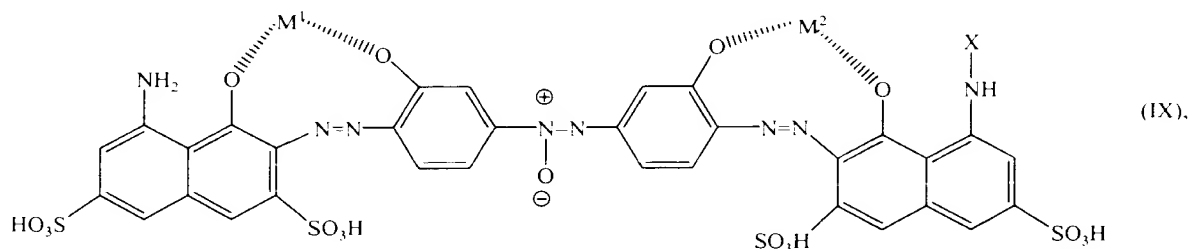
X is hydrogen or a radical of the formula



R¹ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy[,], and hydroxyl and carboxyl,

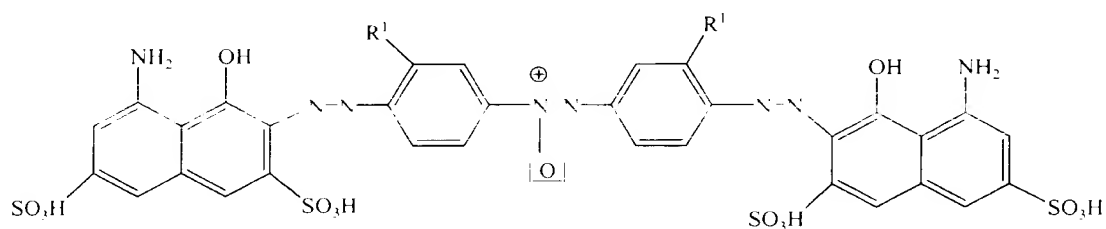
R² is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, allylamino, benzylamino and methoxycarbonylmethylamino and the phenyl ring A may additionally be substituted by substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈-alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, methyl-substituted phenyl, halogen-substituted phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, halogen, carboxyl, N-benzylcarbamoyl, unsubstituted or nitro-, halogen-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy- or acetoxy-substituted phenylcarbamoyl and naphthylcarbamoyl or may be benzofused.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Copper complex dyes of the general formula IX in the form of the free acid



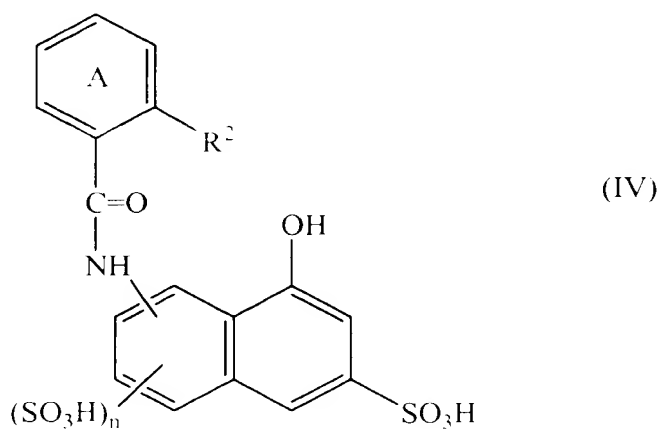
where at least one of M^1 and M^2 is copper (II) and any which is not is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrogen and methyl, and X is as defined in claim 11, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing azoxy dyes of the formula

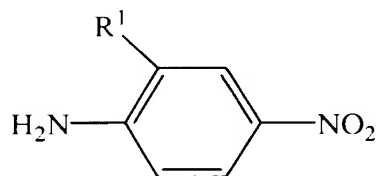


where

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxyl and carboxyl, which comprises coupling a coupling component of the formula IV



with nitroaniline of the formula V



where n , A , R^1 and R^2 are each as defined in claim 1, reducing the resultant nitro monoazo dye and deacylating in aqueous solution at $\text{pH} < 9$.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 11 has been amended by deleting carboxyl from the R¹ Markush group.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct an error in the recital of M¹ and M² when not copper (II), as supported in the specification at page 5, prenumbered lines 27-31. Compare to Claim 6.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application.